value to land, from which, from its proximity to a great town, much is expected, we may be excused an observation or two relative to the price the latter will fetch. The country people hold their small properties with great tenacity, and it is not easy to persuade them to part with any portion, however trivial; we have known 12 perches of land to sell for 60*l.*, and half an acre for 10,000 francs, or 400*l.*, within 14 miles of Paris.

The third important point connected with the health of the town to which we have alluded, is the supply of water. Not only have the larger fountains been increased in number, but in every street at almost every hundred yards are small fountains placed, which play two or three times a-day. They afford an abundant supply for watering the streets in the heat of summer, and are at the same time a means of cleanliness, which those who know Paris well can fully appreciate. The fresh, clear water, after running through the streets, finds its way into the sewers, which likewise benefit by the supply. The offensive odours, particularly in the narrow streets during warm weather, of which strangers so complain, have much diminished, both in frequency and intensity.

In addition to these sanitary improvements, we might name the "Cités Ouvrières," as an instance of the anxiety to ameliorate the condition of the class which most suffers in health. All over the world the working class is infamously provided for, and as they are a dependant and, in some measure, a helpless class, the victims of the knavery and overreaching of others, they have hitherto had the blame, as well as the plague, of their position to put up with. They have not time, it is true, to brush their nails, wash their teeth, or curl their hair; indeed, they are up, most part of the year, before it is light, and mirrors do not abound in their apartments; but that they are capable of civilization, or, at any rate, of very sensible sober amelioration, has been proved by their preference for improved lodgings wherever they can get them; and we think there can be little doubt but that their manners and habits must be very considerably benefited by the change. At all events, it has been remarked of late years, that certain wretched districts, formerly exclusively inhabited by the working class in Paris, have been almost deserted for more healthful and better-built quarters. Still the system of imposition carried on by the landlords here, as it is in every other part of the world, towards that particular class, calls loudly for remedy; and therefore has sprung up the beneficent idea of the "Cités Ouvrières," to provide for them healthful habitations.

The Society for the Encouragement of National Industry has granted a medal of gold worth 3,000 francs to M. Leclaire for his substitution of white of zinc for white of lead. Thus we see that something is really and seriously done to ameliorate the general health. It appears that from 1838 to 1847, no less than 3,142 persons entered the Paris Hospital, attacked by disease originating in the use of lead. Of these, 1,898 persons worked at white of lead or at minium; there were also 712 painters, 63 grinders of colours, and 10 preparers of visiting cards with a porcelain surface. Since 1846 no person has been attacked in M. Leclaire's establishment.

There is a very useful regulation forbidding the existence of certain establishments of a dangerous or a noxious character within the town; or, indeed, within a given distance of any inhabited houses. One nuisance, however, still remains here, and that is, the melting of tallow, which is particularly disagreeable in the neighbourhood of the abattoirs. The inhabitants very justly complain of it. There is no reason why it should not be removed also outside the town. These splendid establishments cost about 20,000,000 francs or 800,000*l.*, and bring to the town a revenue of about 1,00,000f., or 40,000*l.*

We might say something in regard to the state of the prisons, which, owing to their crowded state during late events, have proved (several of them) to be as insufficient for their purpose as dangerous for the health of those retained. M. Dupin described one of them, the Dépôt of the Préfecture of Police, as "une *fosse en fourrière de l'humanité*," and what makes it worse is, that the individuals there incarcerated are only accused persons, very many of whom, in troublesome times, are arrested by mistake or suspicion merely. Cholera naturally declared itself in such a place, where there is not even a court for them to take air in, and where on one occasion, lately, sixty women were confined in a room hardly large enough for thirty of them. The majority of the prisons form an exception to what we find at the "dépôt;" and will, for wholesomeness and management, rival the best establishments of the kind in the world.

THE LAMENT OF TWO ARTICLED CLERKS.

"Are the columns of The Builder open to receive a detailed account of the grievances to which architects' clerks are subjected?" is a question that has often occurred to the minds of the two individuals who have at length ventured upon putting the matter to the proof, and addressing a few lines to you, in the hope that they may provoke attention from your editorial pen, or, at least, from some one or other of your numerous contributors. Our claims to sympathy are indicated by your correspondent "J." who, in describing the characteristics of "one order of architects," says "he devours pupils." Oh, Sir, our eyes fell upon that sentence, we looked at each other, and simultaneously exclaimed, "We are devoured!"

The fall of an apple set the great philosopher, Newton, thinking, as to the cause, and thus opened out the discovery of the laws of attraction; in like manner did that word "devours," set us thinking. The cannibal fury of that word seemed to strike a sympathetic chord within our breasts, and led us to ask, "Why are we devoured?" But, not having been taught to think, and experiencing a great difficulty in bending our minds with strict attention to the consideration of the question, we thought it the simplest, safest, and *easiest* way (there, Sir, was the charm) to go to The Builder, and state at once our troubles, and learn from you, Mr. Editor, the "why and the wherefore"—to make use of familiar colloquial English, which, after all, suits us the best—an architect "devours pupils." Our respective "governors" have paid a premium for each of us, upon the faith of the understanding that our master was to teach, or cause to be taught to us the various branches of knowledge necessary to enable us in due time to practise as architects and surveyors. The lawyer who drew up our articles was not aware of the scruples of the Institute, or, of course, he would have left out the latter word. Nor, as things have turned out, would the omission have been of much importance, for although three out of our term of five years have expired, we have learnt nothing of surveying. We certainly have seen the rods, and we have a recollection of a period in the early part of our pupilage when we dragged the chain, but as to knowing what "field books" are, or "offsets,"—we do not; and we may as well own it at once.

Our master does not belong to the "classic" architects; he designs churches, parsonages, and schools, in the "Pointed" styles. But, although he himself understands the differences of the last-mentioned styles, he has never taken it into his head to explain these differences to us. You will scarcely credit us, Mr. Editor, but we assure you it is a fact, that until very lately we did not know Decorated from Early English, nor Early English from Perpendicular. Even now we are sorely puzzled with Plain Decorated. However, we had the information upon good authority (not our master), that a certain building was Plain Decorated, and we believed it, though we did not understand it.

We omitted to state, in the proper place, that we have drawn "the orders," Ionic volutes, &c. Trace, trace, trace; we keep tracing away, and that is all that we do, or almost all; for sometimes, but very rarely, we get a bit of "inking in," and now and then a specification or quantities to write out. That our vassalage, our serfdom, will expire before very long, animates us with hope in one point of view, since we count the days off as eagerly as ever we did when at school, in the expectation of the holidays. But then, again, we reflect that every day diminishes likewise the opportunity of being taught. Our time for learning gets also less and less. And this consideration "gives us pause."

We have sat for a long time with our hands before us—to speak figuratively—and now we really think it is high time something should be done. Can there be others in the same unhappy plight as ourselves? Yes, perhaps there are, or what means "devours pupils?" How can they be devoured except by having their time monopolized, and by being converted into willing slaves and lacqueys, while no effort is made to teach them anything connected with (what should be) their profession? Give us a hearing, Mr. Editor, and, what is more important, give us your advice. Relying upon you, we humbly take our leave, and beg to subscribe ourselves,—Yours, &c.,

A. B. and C. D.

COTTAGE BUILDING.

In connection with the conversation which took place after Mr. Roberts's paper was read at the Institute, I would add, touching the arrangement and accommodation required, that in practice I have found,—

1. It is not desirable to have a lath and plaster ceiling to the ground-floor of cottages, but that it is essential in the upper story, where it tends to equalize the temperature throughout the year: in the ground floor it is worse than useless.

2. The mania for cleanliness in England is a reason why tiles or bricks are not fit for floors. The quantity of water which they absorb during the process of washing them is so great, that the evaporation is unhealthy: plaster is as bad, stone is better, asphalte better still, and wood best of all. Abroad, tiles are found useful, it is true; but how often are they washed?

3. No living-room should have a bed in, or a sleeping closet only lighted from, it: there is hardly any worse feature in any "model design."

4. Wet clothes are the hereditary curse of the labourer; and in a well-arranged lodging he should be able to place them where they will be dry ere he next wears them. For this purpose a niche in the chimney is desirable, with a door to it, and an opening at top and at bottom into the flue. This is best contrived by building the opening at least 2 feet 10 inches too wide, and putting a half-brick partition into the breast; or it may be got behind a fire-place in many cases.

5. All rooms should have chimneys, and where none can be got a zinc rain-water pipe and head reversed does very well instead.

6. All grates should have hobs, should not be too large, rarely exceeding 12 inches in the width of the fire, which should have sloping sides, and the opening had better be wider than the stove—i. e., if this be 2 feet, then 3 feet of aperture, to be made up by brickwork: look at any cottage fireplace for the truth of this.

7. As Mr. Sydney Smirke observed, the hearths should be of cast-iron, as least likely to break.

8. The privy and pantry should be as rarely back to back, without ventilation or a brick wall between them, as a privy and bed-room, to say nothing of bed closets.

9. As to sashes of wood or iron, the latter, hung on centre pivots, are the best of any sort in my opinion for the purpose.

10. Norfolk latches are best (as children cannot open them), when they are not intended to go in or out, but worst when children cannot get out in case of accident.

J. W. Papworth.

We have received a letter from the author of the cottage design to which the Royal Agricultural Society awarded their premium, commenting indignantly on Mr. Roberts's condemnation of his plan. We are unable to give more than the last paragraph:—"In the hope which he is pleased to express, he will be disappointed, for several cottages are in course of erection (the numerous letters of recommendation which I have received lead me to anticipate that the design will be extensively adopted), and when they are finished and occupied, will bear ample testimony to their efficiency for "promoting the improvement and condition of the labouring classes."

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